

SSA Andre Simons

Behavioral Analysis Unit (BAU)

**National Center for the Analysis of
Violent Crime (NCAVC)**

FBI



Behavioral Threat Assessment Center (BTAC)

FBI

U.S. Capitol Police

ATF

Agents and Analysts

Psychiatrist



Behavioral Threat Assessment Center (BTAC)

The BAU-2's Behavioral Threat Assessment Center (BTAC) assesses the potential threat of violence as posed by persons of concern and as reflected in threatening communications. The BTAC's multi-agency composition (FBI, ATF, and U.S. Capitol Police) enhances functional assessments of the risk of future violence while enabling the development and implementation of dynamic behavioral strategies to disrupt planned attacks and reduce the threat of violence against individuals and institutions.



Behavioral Threat Assessment Center (BTAC)

Persons of Concern

Active Shooters

School/Campus Attacks

Workplace Violence

Public figure stalkers

Communications of Concern

Threats/extortions

Disturbing communications



BTAC Services Provided

**Threat Assessment
Threat Management
Communication Analysis
Interview Strategies
Media Strategies
Investigative Strategies
Research Initiatives
Training**



Targeted Violence:

Perpetrators of pre-conceived violence focused on individuals, groups, or locations engage in behaviors that precede and are related to their attacks. They consider, plan and prepare before engaging in acts of violence. These behaviors are often detectable; providing an opportunity for disruption of the intended violence by utilizing a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach to assessment and intervention.

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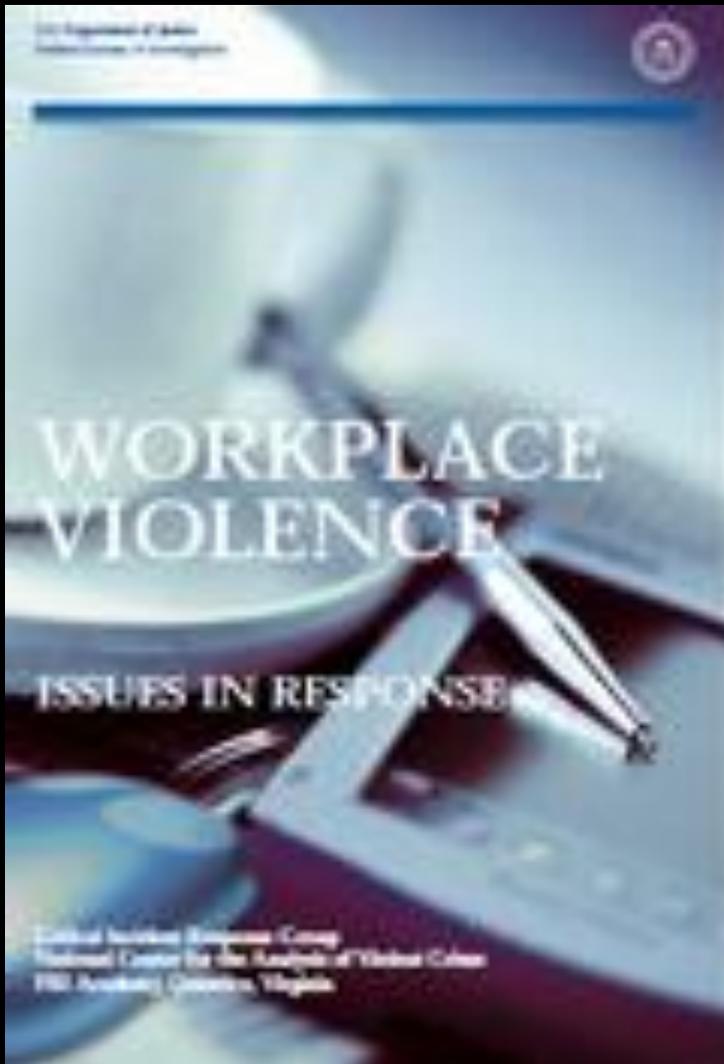
The School Shooter:
A THREAT ASSESSMENT PERSPECTIVE



Research & Publications

Search
“school shooter
FBI”





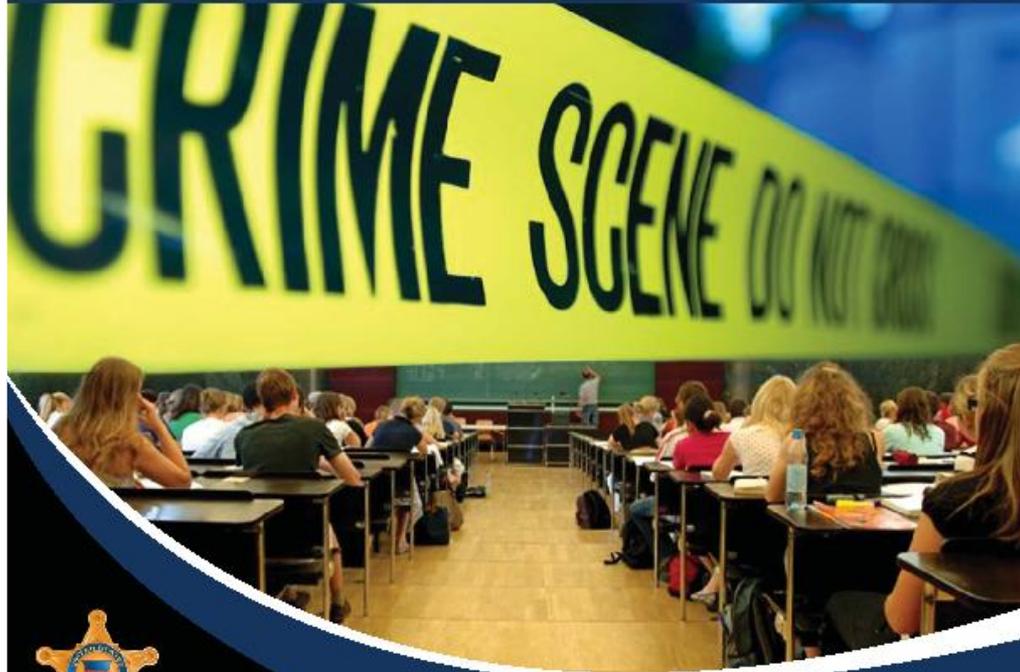
Research & Publications

Search
“workplace violence
FBI”



CAMPUS ATTACKS

Targeted Violence Affecting Institutions
of Higher Education



April 2010

United States Secret Service • United States Department of Education • Federal Bureau of Investigation

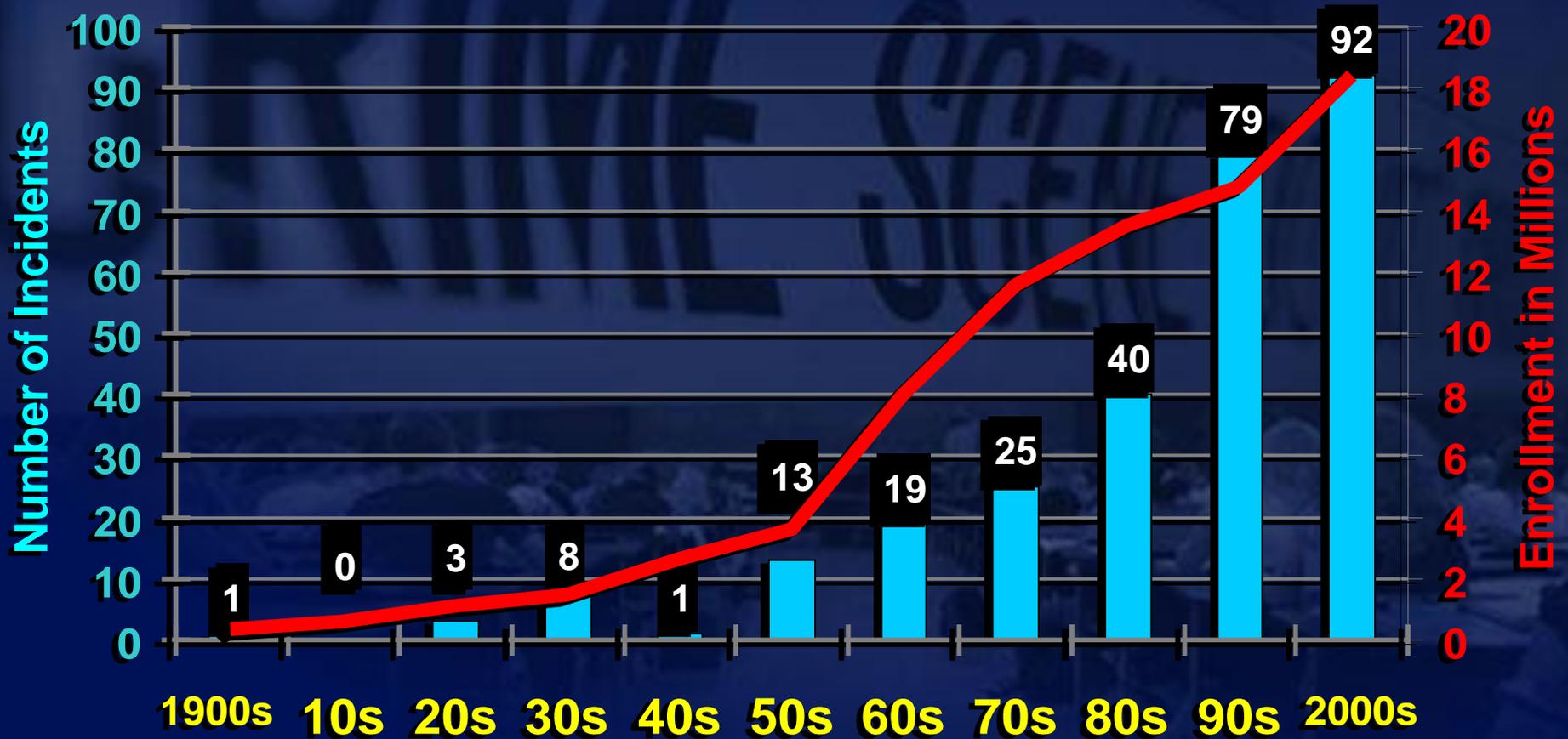
Phase I

Search:

“Campus Attacks
FBI or USSS or
Education”

Number of Incidents

1909-2009* (n = 281)



*Data collected through 2008, projected for 2009 based on average per year for decade.

Distribution Throughout Year

Incidents of Directed Assaults,
by Month, 1900-2008 (n = 270)



Myth:

Disgruntled
Students are
the Only
Threat to
Student
Safety.

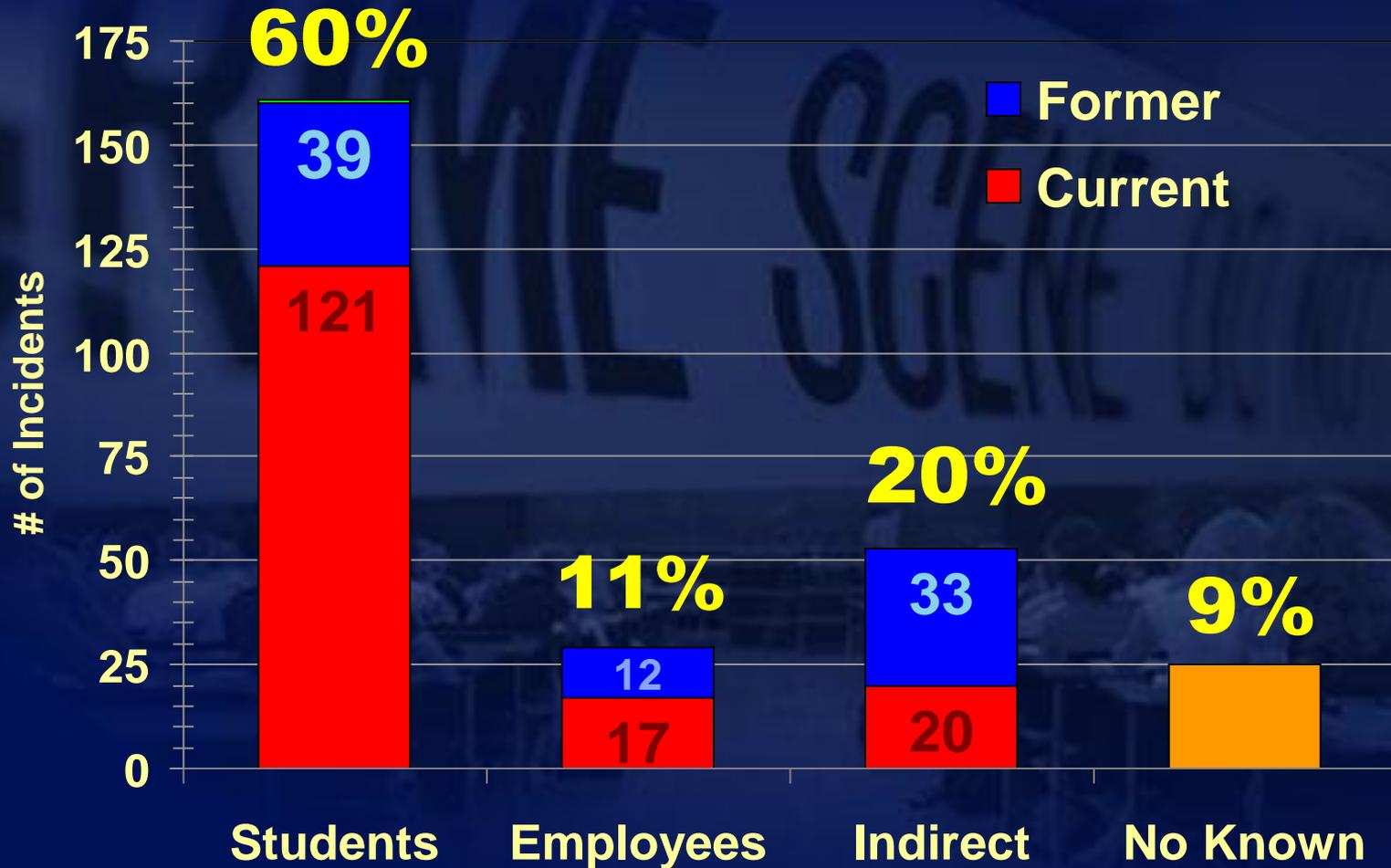


The Subjects

- Almost All Acted Alone
- 94% Were Male
- Ages Ranged From 16 to 62 (average 28)
- Varied by affiliation to campus

Known Subject Affiliations

($n = 268$)





Multiple
Threats:

Students
Staff
Teachers
Parents
Outsiders

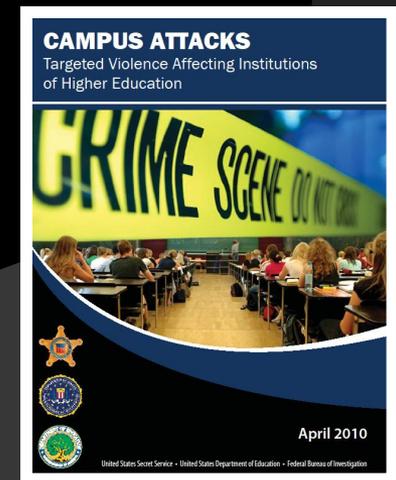
Key Considerations

- Attackers typically vary in their affiliation to the targeted institution.

Consider that threats may originate from students, staff, and/or outsiders. Create assessment, management, and response strategies that are flexible and dynamic.

Method of Attack & Harm Caused

- Three-quarters Used Firearms or Knives
- Caused 281 Deaths and 247 Injuries
- 71 Subjects Committed Suicide
- 10 Subjects Were Killed by Law Enforcement



Most Combined Casualties

Casualties
(Injured/Killed)

Aug. 1, 1966	Charles J. Whitman, 25	44 (31 / 13)
May 22, 1968	Harriett F. Leeb, 18	17 (15 / 2)
Nov. 4, 1993	Keith Sherlin, 19	18 (18 / 0)
Apr. 16, 2007	Seung Hui Cho, 23	49 (17 / 32)
Feb. 14, 2008	Stephen Kazmierczak, 27	23 (18 / 5)

(Drysdale, Modzeleski, & Simons, 2010)

Hatchet as Weapon:

March 3, 2006



Edmund Ygat, The Chronicle-Telegram, 12/14/94, p. A4

Sequoia Institute, Fremont, CA

Subject: Edmund Ygat, 24

Victims: 3 injured

Vehicle as Weapon:

March 3, 2006



University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Subject: Mohammed Reza Taheri-Azar, 22

Victims: 9 injured

Hammer as Weapon:

August 18, 1978



Stanford University

Subject: Theodore Streleski, 41

Victim: Prof. Karel de Leeuw

Marzipan as Weapon:

December, 1992



Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles

Columbia University, New York

Subject: Filip Semey, 28

Key Considerations

- Though 75% of attacks used firearms or knives, 25% used other means.

Look beyond access to firearms when evaluating risk.

Key Considerations

- ⦿ Attention should be given to proactive prevention strategies as well as crisis management responses.

Robust threat assessment and threat management strategies contribute to the identification and disruption of targeted violence.

Key Considerations

- Multi-disciplinary threat management teams featuring trained professionals can contribute to the identification and disruption of targeted violence.

Law enforcement, mental health care, administrative, and education professionals should routinely collaborate to provide holistic threat management services.

Key Considerations

- ⦿ There is no “one size fits all approach” when assessing and managing targeted violence.

“Checklists” of concerning behaviors have limited value and should not replace a thorough and professional threat assessment.

Key Considerations

- Caretaking, monitoring, and follow-up are often required when managing persons who exhibit concerning behaviors.

Short-term, long-term, and post-intervention threat management requires attention, time, and commitment from school and campus safety stakeholders.